

REPORT OF LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION
2004 – 2005 (FY – 05)

The Lakes Region has changed tremendously in the past 20 years. Homes and businesses have expanded along major roadways, and many of our communities have experienced dramatic changes. The growth has resulted in a number of regional changes. The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) is the area organization established to address the effects of growth at both the local and regional level. With a service area covering over 1,200 square miles of Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, and Merrimack Counties, the LRPC provides a wide range of planning services ranging from technical assistance, geographic information systems, and transportation planning, to land use and environmental planning, and economic development. Local, state, and federal resources primarily fund the LRPC. We are contacted several times daily for answers to local and statewide issues. We also maintain a regular dialogue with state agencies as a resource for the entire Lakes Region. Our goal remains to provide support and leadership to the governments, businesses, and citizens of the Lakes Region.

Listed below are some of our services performed on behalf of Alton and the region in the past Fiscal year:

- Assisted the Planning Board with the preparation of a community survey as part of the Town's effort to update the Master Plan.
- Responded to a Development of Regional Impact request from the Town for two telecommunications tower applications.
- Reformatted, printed, and delivered the Alton zoning map to the Planning Board.
- Attended a site walk for a proposed water extraction plant.
- Provided information to local officials for the Capital Improvements Program.
- Working with the Town to complete the necessary chapters for the update of the Master Plan.
- Assisted the Town in preparing and completing the town Hazardous Mitigation Plan, which was approved by the Board of Selectmen on May 16, 2005 and by FEMA on July 20, 2005.
- Created a Power Point presentation for the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility to present at an LRPC commission meeting.
- Updated the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility Brochure.
- Provided information on impervious surfaces to a local business owner.

- Co-hosted and organized three public Municipal Law Lectures where practicing attorneys provide a legal perspective on local planning, zoning, and other municipal issues. Recent lectures included: the Basics of Subdivision & Site Plan Review, Land Use Law Update, and New Challenges for Municipal Regulation of the Environment. We are also preparing for the 2005 Law Lectures, in partnership with the NH Municipal Association.
- Planned the 20th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection in the Lakes Region. Two consecutive Saturdays were designated as collection days for 24 participating communities. An estimated 20,000 gallons of waste were collected, containerized, and transported to EPA approved end-of-life locations around the country.
- Ordered and distributed many copies of the NH Planning and Land Use Regulation books to local planning boards at considerable savings.
- Convened several meetings of the LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to enhance local involvement in transportation planning and project development. The TAC advises the LRPC on transportation projects of regional significance.
- Continued work on the Lakes Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This planning effort will help provide a blueprint for the location of local bike and pedestrian routes.
- Conducted over 150 traffic counts around the region, in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. LRPC is also assisting the DOT with the preparation of local road inventories, on a town-by-town basis.
- Participated on the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility board to explore the ways and means that the facility may encourage communities to participate in its use as members.
- Convened seven Commission meetings, including four area meetings, which featured a diverse range of topics from agriculture and its impact on the Lakes Region, septage management, the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility, and environmental legislation linked to the Shoreland Protection Act and the reduction of mercury emissions from power plants.
- Continue to represent the region on several boards and committees related to the economic and environmental well-being of the region, e.g., the Belknap County Economic Development Council, NH Route 16 Corridor Advisory Committee, the Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee, etc.